

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 19-40.

Claims 1-40 (deleted).

Please add new claims 41-76 as follows:

41. (New). *Eustoma* seed comprising a recessive allele for reduced apical dominance, wherein a sample of said seed has been deposited under A.T.C.C. Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_.
42. (New). An *Eustoma* plant containing a recessive allele for reduced apical dominance grown from the seed of claim 41.
43. (New). Pollen of the plant of claim 42.
44. (New). An ovule of the plant of claim 42.
45. (New). A tissue culture comprising regenerable cells of the plant of claim 42.
46. (New). A cutting of the plant of claim 42.
47. (New). A *Eustoma* plant, or its parts, regenerated from the tissue culture of claim 45 and capable of expressing all the morphological and physiological characteristics of *Eustoma* plant, seed of which has been deposited under ATCC accession number \_\_\_\_\_.
48. (New). A method of producing a hybrid plant, said method comprising the steps of: crossing a first inbred parent *Eustoma* plant with a second inbred parent *Eustoma* plant and harvesting the resultant hybrid *Eustoma*

seed, wherein said first or second parent *Eustoma* plant is the *Eustoma* plant of claim 42.

49. (New). A hybrid *Eustoma* seed produced by the method of claim 48.

50. (New). A hybrid *Eustoma* plant, or part thereof, produced by growing said hybrid *Eustoma* seed of claim 49.

51. (New). Pollen of the plant of claim 50.

52. (New). An ovule of the plant of claim 50.

53. (New). A tissue culture comprising regenerable cells of the plant of claim 50.

54. (New). A cutting of the plant of claim 50.

55. (New). A method for developing a *Eustoma* plant that exhibits reduced apical dominance in a *Eustoma* plant breeding program using plant breeding techniques, wherein said plant breeding program employs a *Eustoma* plant, or its parts, as a source of plant breeding material, the method comprising the step of obtaining the *Eustoma* plant, or its parts, of claim 42 as a source of said breeding material.

56. (New). The method of claim 55 wherein plant breeding techniques are selected recurrent selection, backcrossing or pedigree breeding.

57. (New). A *Eustoma* plant exhibiting reduced apical dominance produced by the method of claim 55.

58. (New). A *Eustoma* plant exhibiting reduced apical dominance, wherein at least one ancestor of said *Eustoma* plant is the *Eustoma* plant, or its parts, of claim 42.

59. (New). *Eustoma* seed comprising a recessive allele for reduced apical dominance, wherein a sample of said seed has been deposited under A.T.C.C. Accession Number \_\_\_\_\_.

60. (New). An *Eustoma* plant containing a recessive allele for reduced apical dominance grown from the seed of claim 59.

61. (New). Pollen of the plant of claim 60.

62. (New). An ovule of the plant of claim 60.

63. (New). A tissue culture comprising regenerable cells of the plant of claim 60.

64. (New). A cutting of the plant of claim 60.

65. (New). A *Eustoma* plant, or its parts, regenerated from the tissue culture of claim 63 and capable of expressing all the morphological and physiological characteristics of *Eustoma* plant, seed of which has been deposited under ATCC accession number \_\_\_\_\_.

66. (New). A method of producing a hybrid plant, said method comprising the steps of: crossing a first parent *Eustoma* plant with a second parent *Eustoma* plant and harvesting the resultant hybrid *Eustoma* seed, wherein said first or second parent *Eustoma* plant is the *Eustoma* plant of claim 60.

67. (New). A hybrid *Eustoma* seed produced by the method of claim 66.

68. (New). A hybrid *Eustoma* plant, or part thereof, produced by growing said hybrid *Eustoma* seed of claim 67.

69. (New). Pollen of the plant of claim 68.

70. (New). An ovule of the plant of claim 68.

71. (New). A tissue culture comprising regenerable cells of the plant of claim 68.

72. (New). A cutting of the plant of claim 68.

73. (New). A method for developing a *Eustoma* plant that exhibits reduced apical dominance in a *Eustoma* plant breeding program using plant breeding techniques, wherein said plant breeding program employs a *Eustoma* plant, or its parts, as a source of plant breeding material, the method comprising the step of obtaining the *Eustoma* plant, or its parts, of claim 60 as a source of said breeding material.

74. (New). The method of claim 73 wherein plant breeding techniques are selected recurrent selection, backcrossing or pedigree breeding.

75. (New). A *Eustoma* plant exhibiting reduced apical dominance produced by the method of claim 73.

76. (New). A *Eustoma* plant exhibiting reduced apical dominance, wherein at least one ancestor of said *Eustoma* plant is the *Eustoma* plant, or its parts, of claim 60.